GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:810
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2015
Rabies Infections
George Shri (Adv.) Joice

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued orders against the culling of stray dogs, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether there has been an increase in the cases of rabies infection on account of stray dog bites in the country, if so, the details thereof indicating the number of such cases reported during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise; and

(c) the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)

(a): As informed by Animal Welfare Board of India under Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules, 2001 have been notified by Government for sterilization to control the street dog population and immunization to prevent rabies, to be implemented by the Local Authorities with the help of Animal Welfare Organisations. Rule 9 of the ABC (Dogs) Rules, 2001, provides for euthanasia of incurably ill and mortally wounded dogs as diagnosed by a qualified Veterinarian appointed by the monitoring committee constituted by the Local Authority.

(b): The data collected by Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI) does not indicate increase in the cases of rabies in the country. The details of the rabies cases reported during the last three years and the current year are placed at Annexure.

(c): Government of India is implementing National Rabies Control Programme under XII Five Year Plan, which has both human and animal health components. National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) is the nodal agency to implement human health component. The strategy includes:
â€¢ Training of health professionals in appropriate animal bit management.
â€¢ Implementation of intra dermal route of inoculation of cell culture anti-rabies vaccines
â€¢ IEC in general community.
â€¢ Strengthening laboratories for diagnosis of rabies.
â€¢ Strengthening surveillance.
Animal health component is being implemented by Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) initially in Haryana and Chennai to pilot test the strategy which includes:

â€¢ Mass vaccination of dogs.
â€¢ Dog population management,
â€¢ Strengthening surveillance & response